

## THE GLASS EYE.

A Young Man Who Hesitated to Mention His Ocular Defect.

A young man with a glass eye was engaged to be married, but he did not like to inform his betrothed of his ocular defect. A week previous to the day named for the wedding he confided in his future father-in-law who, to his surprise, received the information in a highly amused manner. "I'll make it all right for you, my boy; you imitate me exactly in anything I do after supper to-night, and see how good-naturedly Maria (that was the lady's name) will take it." Accordingly, as soon as the evening meal was concluded, the father looked at the young man and began to sing:

Oh, do you know the glass-eye man?  
The glass-eye man, the glass-eye man?  
Oh, do you know the glass-eye man?  
Who lives down our way?

And, as he concluded the last line, he took out his left eye and placed it on a plate in front of him. The young man was very much astonished to find his Maria's father as unfortunate as himself, while at the same time it gave him courage to reply:

Oh, yes, I know the glass-eye man,  
Who lives down our way.

and he deposited his crystal optic on the table. Maria was convulsed with laughter at the proceedings, but her future husband was ready to believe all humanity one-eyed when she trebled forth:

I also know the glass-eye man,  
Who lives down our way.

and dropped her eye into a glass of water by her side.

Frequent assaults and battery have been made by sternly virtuous females in ears of glass-eyed men. Only recently a gentleman was enjoying the scenery through the car window with his natural eye, unaware of the fact that his glass-eye was staring straight ahead at a maiden lady of Sunday school principles. She put up with it for half an hour, and then got up and, smashing his hat over his head, called him a licentious villain and other complimentary epithets, and was also prevented from scratching his face by his timely retreat to the smoking car under the supposition that he was attacked by a mad woman.

Fifty years ago, when California was under the dominion of Spain, a one-eyed commandant ruled at San Francisco, who was the terror of all the Indians in the vicinity. A Yankee skipper traveling that way induced the Spaniard to purchase one of the then newly-invented glass-eyes of him, and to the fear and surprise of the red-skins, the commandant suddenly appeared with two eyes. This was too much for the braves, so one of their number was deputed to assassinate the senator. He managed to gain access to his chamber, but, on approaching the couch, was terrified to find the commandant sleeping with one eye closed and the other wide open. The amazed Indian gave an unearthly yell and threw himself headlong from the window.

One of the most curious stories is the case of a supposed blind beggar in Paris. This man was arrested for some trivial offense, and, on his way to prison, one of his eyes fell out on the sidewalk. On being examined it was discovered that for a long time he had been in the habit of wearing two ingenious contrived porcelain covers to his real eyes, which were of a different color to the sham ones, and he was at once recognized as a criminal for whom the authorities had long been in search.

A glass eye once figured in a civil trial. An optician sued a woman for the value of an eye he had inserted for her with the promise that she would find it both ornamental and useful. The woman declined to pay, her defense in court being as follows:

"I have false teeth; I can eat with them. I have false hair; it keeps my head warm and is ornamental. I have also a false leg; I can walk with it. But—taking her glass eye out and dashing it to the ground—I can neither see with my false eye nor is it an object of beauty." She gained her suit.—*Philadelphia Press.*

## Not Guilty.

A member of a church congregation in Wisconsin was last fall charged with gambling in stocks and was brought up before a committee for investigation. The trial began by the deacon asking:

"Brother Smith, the charge is gambling in stocks."

"Yes, sir."

"And you plead not guilty?"

"No, sir, I plead guilty."

"Then you do buy and sell stocks, speculate in wheat and oats and futures in pork?"

"I do, sir; didn't I give \$1,000 in cash to help build this church?"

"Yes."

"Well, I second that in on a little deal on pork. Did not I pay \$500 on the organ?"

"Yes."

"That was part of my profits on spec in oats. Didn't I foot deficiency of \$400 in the minister's salary this year?"

"Yes."

"That came from a rise in stock. Didn't I chip in \$200 towards the parsonage?"

"Yes."

"That came from a corner in oats. Haven't I wheeled up on the orphan asylum, the new bridge, the park and fire engine?"

## "You have."

"Well, that means more corners and holding on till I felt my hair growing gray. Gentlemen I will step out for a moment and let you reach a verdict."

He stepped out, but it was only thirty seconds before he was called in and congratulated on a verdict of not guilty.—*Wall Street News.*

## He Wanted to Be Kind.

His wife kept complaining about having too much work to do, and one day when he came home at noon and found dinner was not quite ready and he fussed about it, she quickly replied:

"Well, get a girl to help do the work and then I will guarantee your meals ready for you when you happen to come home on time."

"That's all right!" says he; "I'll do so. Now there's Mollie O'Brien, she is out of employment now, and I believe we could get her."

"Indeed, and you'll not get her. You are a little too well acquainted with her already, I'm thinking."

"Well, how would Jennie Friel do? She's a nice, well-behaved girl and a splendid cook."

"Splendid cook, eh? and how do you know that she's a fine cook pray? Where have you been to see her cook?"

"Never saw her cook; just heard of her cooking, that's all."

"No, sir, I'll have none of your Mollies and Jennies about me. I do not want any girl. If I get any help I'll do the selecting, and you can bet all you are worth it won't be any girl."

"Not any girl, eh? Oh, I see! You want a man servant."

"No, I will get no man servant; but if I get any, I will get some dried-up, snaggy-toothed old woman, with a breath that will knock you back like a shock of electricity should you go near her. I've got no time to lose watching you and the hired girl of your own selection. You can't get ahead of me."

"He smiled a disappointed smile and walked out of the kitchen into the sitting room feeling that he only held a second place in that house."

## Salaries of Railroad Men.

There is much speculation as to the salaries paid railroad officials and employees filling important positions in railway managements. For various reasons it is difficult to determine the amounts received by this class of men. The pay-rolls can not be taken as evidence, as in many instances the vouchers drawn from time to time for what is classed "special service," fully equals the sum named on the pay-rolls. In the West, General Managers receive from \$10,000 to \$15,000 per year; General Superintendents, from \$6,000 to \$10,000; Assistant General Superintendents, from \$5,000 to \$8,000; General Traffic Managers, \$5,000 to \$10,000; Auditors, \$5,000 to \$5,500; division superintendents, \$3,000 to \$3,500; general master mechanics, \$200 per month; master mechanics, \$125; general foremen, \$100 to \$125; master car-builders, \$200; car foreman, \$100. In addition to these salaries, the officials are provided with one or more business cars, which are furnished with all necessities and provisions, the company paying the expense of all including the salary of an attendant. These cars and the contents are at the disposal of superintendents, managers, and the general agents. In official statements, frequently among the bills rendered against the departments are found those reading: "One dozen Mumm's Extra Dry, \$80, Business car."

## Oil Mill.

Within comparatively a few years the consumption of oil-meat in this country has rapidly extended until at the present time there is scarcely an agricultural or stock raising district in the older portions of the United States in which the article has not found a market. The value of cotton seed oil-meat as a fertilizer is well known to require special mention by us. Its importance in this field has been long recognized by Southern planters and for many years they consumed nearly the total yearly product in enriching their lands. The Eastern States have more recently taken up oil-meat, both for stock feeding and fertilizing purposes, and the farmers there are now among the largest consumers in this country. Since corn and other stock food have reached such a high cost some of the Western cattle and hog-raisers have turned to oil-meat, and have substituted it to a great extent for corn, especially in the fattening of hogs for the market. It has been found that oil-meat is particularly adapted for this purpose, containing nearly all the essential elements of corn, its fat-producing quality being equal if not superior to the latter, while it is far cheaper and easily handled. The chances for an extensive growth of consumption in this direction are very encouraging, while for fertilizing it is one of the cheapest and more valuable composts in the market. Recently consumers have become somewhat fastidious regarding the quality and appearance of the meat, but the objections are being overcome by manufacturers who are paying more attention to the production of the article, and there is a marked improvement already noticeable.

## THE TELEPHONE.

Seven years ago Bell, the inventor of the telephone, was a poor citizen of Hartford, Conn., an experimenter in telegraphing and looked upon by those who knew him as a visionary about electricity. He worked away for all that and upon two scanty meals per day and at last perfected and patented the instrument now in use all over the world. He is now actually worth \$6,000,000 in cash and real estate has an income of \$1,000,000 per year and has refused millions for his invention. Jay Gould has made repeated efforts to buy him out and failed.

Gould, like many of the balance of us, sees the telephone as obliged to supersede the telegraph. As he and his company have over eighty million invested in the Western Union telegraph monopoly and have the United States in a sling in this respect, he is naturally jealous of this most dangerous and rapidly rising rival. It is far more simple, cheap and ten times more satisfactory. Recent experiments have clearly proven that two persons can converse through them 500 miles as readily as 100 yards. And plainer too. We were the other day talking to a friend in Waxahatchie thirty odd miles away and could both hear and distinguish his voice as if he had been standing before us. His messages were plainer than one from a point in the city. And this is the infancy of this great invention! What will it be in ten or twenty years from now?

We expect in time to see sound boards attached to each instrument so perfected that the voice from the other end will rebound from it all over the room—to hear the proceedings of a meeting fifty miles off while sitting and listening just like one actually present in the room. All this is coming in our day and time. We know a gentleman in Dallas who has a telephone at his plantation twenty miles from town. His superintendent reports every evening the work done during the day, condition of the crops, and makes his orders for implements, seeds, or any such other wants as the place requires. And the neighbors all come there and call for friends all around the city. There is no stationary clerk, or any expense required save the monthly rental of the instrument.

No wonder the telegraph companies are alarmed. They have ridiculed the telephone and tried to throw obstacles in its way but it is coming into general use so fast they are now trying to buy it up and get a monopoly of it.

## Letter Stamps.

The green 5-cent postage stamp, which will go out of use on and after the first day of next October, will have had a "run" of thirteen years. It succeeded the short-lived pale red 8-cent stamp which succeeded the red. Postage stamps were first issued by the Government in 1847, the initial issue being a 5-cent stamp bearing the face of Franklin and a 10-cent stamp on which was a likeness of Washington. The second series—embracing five denominations—1, 3, 5, 10 and 12—was issued not long afterward. The one bore the face of Franklin, the three that of Washington, the five that of Jefferson, and the ten and twelve different views of Washington. Three higher denominations were added in 1851, a 24, 30 and 90. The 30 was given a second view of Franklin, and the other two varied impressions of Washington. A third issue was made in 1851, without change of facial adornment. The first 2-cent stamp was printed in 1863, and bore the face of Jackson. In 1866 the 15-cent stamp, first issued in 1861, and introduced especially for use in foreign correspondence, was given the face of Lincoln. The square design, of which the blue three was one, was invented in 1870, but was tolerated only about one month, when the designs now in use were substituted. The faces on the stamps of that issue were: Franklin on the 1, Jackson's on the 2, Washington's on the 3, Lincoln's on the 6, Jefferson's on the 10, Clay's on the 12, Webster's on the 15, Scott's on the 24, Hamilton's on the 30, and Perry (Commodore) on the 90. At a later date the face of Stanton was put on the 7-cent stamp, and the 5 was given Garfield's in 1882. As, after October 1, the 2-cent stamp will be the most used, and the three will disappear, it will be fitting to give the new stamps the face of Washington. The stamps of the issue of 1847 and 1851 are obsolete. Those of subsequent issues are still valid. In 1865, and again in 1874, there was an issue of stamps designated newspaper and periodical stamps. Those of the former issue are now uncurrent. They were three in number, and of 5, 10 and 25 cents value. The issue of 1874 were of twenty-four denominations of value ranging from 2 cents to \$60, the more expensive ones being for use by news agents and publishers in forwarding matter in bulk.

## The Lines of the Hands.

So little is known about palmistry in this country that the people are quite astonished to find out how much there is in it when the general outlines of its principles are described to them. It is not hard to tell fortunes by the hand, and one need not be a gipsy queen to do it. Hands are divided into three different kinds: Those with round, pointed

ed fingers, those with square tips, and those that are spade shaped, and pods of flesh on each side of the nails. The first type, with round pointed fingers, belong to characters of quick perceptions, extra sensitive, to very pious people, to contemplative minds, to the impulsive, to all poets and artists who have idealism as a prominent trait. The second type, those that are square-shaped, to scientific people, to sensible, self-contained characters, and to the class of professional men who are neither visionaries nor altogether sordid. The third type, those that are spade shaped, and interests are mostly material, people who have a genius for business and who have a high appreciation of everything that pertains to bodily use and comfort. Each finger, no matter what kind of a hand it is, has a joint representing each of these types. The division of the finger that is nearest the palm, stands for the body, the middle division represents the mind, and the highest joint, the spirit or soul. If the top joint is longer than the others it denotes a character with too much imagination, great idealism, and leaning towards the theoretical rather than the practical. When the middle joint is long, it promises a logical, calculating mind—a very common sense kind of person—and when the lowest joint is the longest it indicates a nature inclining more to the luxuries, rather than the refinements of life, a mind that looks to utility before beauty. If they are nearly alike, especially if the length of the fingers equals the length of the palm, it indicates a well-balanced mind. The principal lines in the palm are the lines of life which run round the base of the thumb; the line of head, which begins alongside the line of life, crossing the middle of the palm; and the line of heart, which goes from one side of the hand to the other at the base of the fingers. A long and well defined line of head, promises intellectual power, and a pole line means indecision. A good-looking line of the heart argues well for the owner's happiness. If it sends short lines towards the line of the head, it is taken to mean that the love of that person will only be given to those who have earned their respect. Such are a few of the points of the science which this winter will be practiced and talked about by nearly every one in intelligent circles.

## Tried Her Own Remedy.

A lady in this city overheard her nurse girl talking to the little child she was putting to sleep, and among other legends of the nursery in which she indulged was this—

"If you do not go to sleep this very minute a great, big, awful black bear, with eyes like coals of fire, and sharp, white, cruel teeth, will come from under the bed and eat-y-o-u-a-l-l-u-p!"

The poor little thing nestled down under the clothes, and after a long season of terror fell asleep to dream frightful dreams of bears eating her.

That night when the stolid nurse had composed herself in her own comfortable bed and had put the light out, there came a sudden rap at the door, and the voice of the mistress called loudly at the door:—

"Maggie! Maggie! for mercy's sake get up as quick as you can! There is a fearful burglar under the bed, and as soon as you get asleep, he is coming out to rob and murder you!"

At the word burglar, the girl sprang from her bed, tore open the door and fell in hysterics into the hall. The lesson was even more instructive than the mistress had designed, but when the girl's fears had been calmed she said to her:

"You did not hesitate to tell my delicate child, who could not possibly know it was a lie, a cruel story of a bear under her bed. Now when I treat you to the same kind of slumber story you are nearly frightened to death. To-morrow you can go into the kitchen to work, you are not fit to take care of little children."

How many children are there who every night of their lives are frightened to sleep!—*Detroit Post.*

## A Man's Body Pierced by a Pin.

Two weeks ago last Sunday night Engelbert Parlmann, a watchmaker in the employ of Jeweler C. W. Freeman, after having thrust a brooch-pin into his body without experiencing any serious effects, threw himself in front of a moving locomotive in the yard of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Company. He was rescued and taken to the hospital. He told the hospital physicians that he had attempted to kill himself by forcing a large brooch-pin into his body just below the heart. The pin was pulled out, but could not be found. On Saturday, Dr. Connell, the attending physician, while examining Parlmann, came to the conclusion that the pin had worked itself through the man's body to the back. He made a small incision and removed the pin. It was five inches in length, and Hartmann said that he made it himself. It went in but a little distance below the point of the heart, and came out of the back direction opposite. Hartmann is getting along nicely, and appears to have no particular desire to take his own life.—*Scranton (Pa.) Republican.*

The United States government in 1870, bought 14,000 sheep and 1,000 goats for the Navajo Indian reservation in Mexico. Now the Indians have 900,000 sheep and 200,000 goats, and are a self-supporting tribe.

## An Essay on Roller Skates.

The little roller skate is a wayward little quadruped. It is as frolicsome and innocent looking as a lamb, but for interfering with one's upright attitude in the community it is perhaps the best machine that has appeared in Salt Lake City.

One's first feeling on standing up on a pair of roller skates is an uncontrollable tendency to come from together. One foot may start out for Idaho while the other as promptly strikes out for Arizona. The legs do not stand by each other as legs related by blood should do, but each shows a disposition to set up in business alone, and leave you to take care of yourself the best way you may. The awkwardness of this arrangement is apparent. While they are setting up independently, there is nothing for you to do but to sit down and wait for future developments. And you have to sit down, too, without having made any previous preparation for it, and without devoting as much thought to it as you might have done had you been consulted in the matter.

One of the most noticeable attractions at skating rink is the strong attraction between the human body and the door of the rink. If the human body had been coming through space for days and days, at the rate of a million miles in a second, without stopping at eating stations and not excepting Sundays, when it strikes the floor we could understand why it struck the floor with so much violence. As it is, however, the thing is inexplicable.

There are different kinds of falls in vogue at the rink. There are the rear falls and the front falls, the Cardinal Wolsey falls, the fall one across the other, three in a pile and so on. There are some of the falls that I would like to be excused from describing. The rear fall is the favorite. It is more frequently utilized than any other. There are two positions in skating, the perpendicular and the horizontal. Advanced skaters prefer the perpendicular, while others effect the horizontal. Skates are no respecters of persons. They will lay out a minister of the Gospel, the mayor of the city as readily as they will a shot-coated, one-suspender boy, or giddy girl.

When one of a man's feet start for Nevada and the other for Colorado, that does not separate him from the floor or break up his fun. Other portions of his body will take the place his feet have just vacated, with a promptness that is surprising. And he will find that the fun has just begun—for the people are looking on.

The equipments for the rink are a pair of skates, an cushion, and a bottle of liniment.—*Laramie Boomerang.*

## Railroad Land.

"Let me overwhelm you with a mass of statistical information," implored a gentleman of elegant leisure, and the avowed man settled himself to his fate. "You have doubtless heard it stated many times," he began, "that railway companies are keeping 128,000,000 acres of unenclosed land out of the market. Do you know how much that land is? Of course you don't. It is as far beyond human comprehension as the statement of an astronomer that one of those stars is 11,000,000,000 miles distant. I will put those acres into shape so that you can realize the immensity of the territory they represent. The state of Maryland, for instance, would go in these 128,000,000 acres seventeen times with 5,000,000 acres to spare, a tract equal to six Rhode Islands or four Delaware. The 128,000,000 would make four states as large as New York, and enough besides to duplicate New Hampshire, Massachusetts and New Jersey. You could set Pennsylvania, with her 28,000,000, down in a corner of this enormous territory, and have land enough left to cut up into states the size of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Maine. The unenclosed land is three and a half times larger than the six New England States. It embraces four times as many acres as Iowa contains, considerably more than four times as many as Ohio, and it is only a little less in extent than the whole of Texas. Can you wonder when you come to study the subject, that railroads object to letting go of property so extensive as that?"

Argentine and Chilean troops fought on Patagonia soil, and many were killed and wounded on both sides. The battle resulted from the invasion of Chile by the Argentines. The estimates laid before the Dominion Parliament for the ensuing year aggregate \$45,000,000, of which \$13,250,000 is for railways. The debt of the Dominion Government is \$167,000,000.

## The Weather Prophets.

Surely the press and public should not allow themselves to be fooled by humbugs like Wiggins and Vennor. Their predictions have turned out to be worthless, as might have been known, as they had no facilities for making weather forecasts at all comparable with the weather bureau at Washington. The latter has signal stations all over the country, they can tell where a storm is raging, and generally, can predict its course, thus anticipating local conditions of the weather. But Wiggins and Vennor have no such machinery at their command, and yet their absurd forecasts are published by the press far and wide. The manner in which they deceive the public is very simple. Storms are constantly raging over different parts of the earth's surface. It has been found, for instance, that in the February of every year there is an average of nineteen storms or more. It is quite safe, therefore, to predict that on a certain day a "blizzard" or some unusual weather disturbance will take place. If at the appointed time it should be pleasant weather on the Atlantic Coast, there is pretty sure to be a tempest of wind or rain in the Mississippi Valley or west of the Rocky Mountains. Then those "began" weather prophets claim that the forecasts were verified. Wiggins, it will be remembered, predicted a phenomenal disturbance on the ninth of February, but, as it is discredited him and his kind,

the weather was exceptionally and unusually fine all over the continent. His excuse was that he meant that a storm would be raging on the Pacific, instead of here in the East. Let us hear no more of these humbugs.—*From Demorest's Monthly for April.*

## He Was in the Army.

Brooklyn Eagle.

A distinguished company of lawyers sat in the Supreme Court-room, talking of old times. Among them was Col Charles S. Spencer. He was in his usual happy vein and told a new story.

"I was retained," said he, "by an ex-soldier of the war to sue for the recovery of some \$1,800 which he had loaned to a friend. The late Edwin James was counsel for the defendant. I went to work zealously for my client, James cross-examined the plaintiff in his usual forcible way.

"You loaned him \$1,800?" Mr. James asked.

"I did sir," was the reply. "It was your own money?" continued Mr. James.

"It was, sir," my client responded. "When did you lend him the money?" was the next question.

"In July, 1866," was the answer. "Where did you get that money?" Mr. James demanded sternly.

"I earned it sir." The words were said in a meek tone.

"You earned it eh? When did you earn it?"

"During the war, sir," was the reply still in a very humble tone.

"You earned it during the war. Boy, what was your occupation during the war?" Mr. James inquired.

"Fighting, sir," the man replied, modestly.

"Oh, fighting," Mr. James said, somewhat taken down and instantly changing his manner. "I smiled triumphantly and even snickered a little. James was half mad. Well, we went to the jury, and I of course, had the last say. Iailed up to glory. I spoke of the war; of the lives and treasures it cost us; of the awful battles which decided the fate of the Union; of the self-denial and the bravery of our men who left home, and wife and children and father and mother and everything that was dear to them, and went forth to fight for freedom, freedom, and the salvation of the nation. I pointed to the plaintiff as he sat there, still in the same air of humility and even sadness, and said that was the sort of men who had fought our battles, and saved our flag, and shed his life-blood that we and our children might enjoy untroubled the blessings of freedom wrrenched from the hands of despots by our sires. I worked up that jury, I can tell you, and the plaintiff himself drew forth an unpretentious handkerchief and wiped away a tear. I got a verdict for the full amount, of course.

"As we were quitting the court-room, James said, 'Spencer, your war speech gained you the verdict. If you had not discovered through my cross-examination that the man had fought in the war, you would have been beaten.'

"My friend," I replied, "if you had only asked the man on which side he fought, you might be going home with a verdict. My client was a rebel."

## Automatic Brakes for Freight Trains.

The chief reason why fast time is not made by freight trains now is found in the lack of such a system of brakes as would be required by fast trains. The matter is being actively canvassed by railroad officials now, and George Westinghouse, Jr., the inventor of the automatic brake, spoke before the Master Car Builders' club in New York recently on continuous brakes, especially as applied to freight cars and trains. Representatives of all the roads having terminal points in New York city or its immediate vicinity were present, and several New England roads were represented. The necessity of some method of braking a freight train more speedily, safely and certainly had led Mr. Westinghouse to make a number of experiments in the automatic and continuous braking of freight trains, which had led him to believe that such a desideratum could be attained and applied to freight as well as passenger trains. To the perfect success of any such plan, however, it was agreed, in a discussion which followed his remarks, that a uniform style of truck, breakers of wheels, system of hanging break-gears and of application of breaking powers and style of brake-shoes was the first requisite. These once agreed upon, and the diverse systems employed and the present shabby system of gearing abandoned, the system so much desired could probably be successfully adopted. If adopted, the improvement to the cars would probably cost not more than \$5 each. To this must be added the cost of an automatic brake, and then railroads will secure a perfectly safe brake, which will permit the running of freight trains on express time.

A unit just returned to Hannibal, Mo., from a Boston high school said upon seeing a fire engine at work: "Who would have dreamed such a very diminutive-looking apparatus would hold so much wattah!"

In New Orleans encumbers are selling at \$2.07 apiece, the \$2 is for the doctor, and the 7 cents is for the man who sells the encumber.

The eye is called the window of the soul. The comparison is perfect when you get stuck in the eye, for then there is a pane in it.

It takes several years to enable one to learn to shoe a horse, but a woman seems to know intuitively how to shoe a hen.

The indictment of Kellogg, on the face of it, shows that a senator may have his price.

The only form of the liquor question that the republicans never dodge is, "Which will you take?"